

REMARKS

Claims 3-7 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claims 3, 6 and 7 are amended and claims 1 and 2 are canceled without prejudice to, or disclaimer of the subject matter disclosed therein. Reconsideration of the application is respectfully requested.

The courtesies extended to Applicant's representative during the July 1, 2005 personal interview by Examiner Truong are gratefully appreciated. The reasons presented at the interview as warranting favorable action are incorporated into the remarks below and constitute Applicant's record of the interview.

The Office Action rejects claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. As agreed during the personal interview, the amendment to claim 7 overcomes the rejection of the claim. Accordingly, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 7 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is respectfully requested.

The Office Action rejects claims 1-3 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Jin Taisei (JP-A-2001-055274) in view of Lambert (U.S. Patent No. 6,318,556); and claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) over Jin Taisei in view of Lambert and further in view of Liu (U.S. Patent No. 5,766,554). The cancellation of claims 1-2 renders their rejection moot. Moreover, the rejections of the claims with respect to claims 3 and 6-7 are respectfully traversed.

In particular, none of the applied references, alone or in combination, disclose or suggest a method of reusing a desiccant that includes recovering a tray that retains a desiccant and heating the tray that retains the desiccant and holds the semiconductor devices, as recited in independent claim 3.

Specifically, Jin Taisei teaches a packaging container 10 that contains a plurality of semiconductor devices 14 stored in storing recess 13a provided in a carrying tray 13 and a hygroscopic material 15 (Abstract). The Office Action admits that Jin Taisei does not expressly disclose the step of heating the tray (page 4, lines 6-7). Moreover, Jin Taisei only

teaches that the container body 11 and the lid 12 can be reused, not the tray 13 and a desiccant 15 which are packed within the package 10 when it is shipped from the manufacturer of the semiconductor devices 14. In fact, paragraph [0024] of the original Japanese version of Jin Taisei specifically states that "when the container 10 becomes empty, it is returned to a factory of the manufacturer of the semiconductor devices 14 from which the container is shipped, and the container is reused after it is cleaned" (emphasis added). Accordingly, it is clear that, in Jin Taisei, although the container 10 is recovered and reused, the tray 13 and the desiccant 15 are not recovered. A full English translation of paragraph [0024] of Jin Taisei can be provided to the Patent Office upon request by the Examiner.

Lambert teaches a stack of trays having a resilient member that maintains gaps between the trays sufficient to permit moisture to escape from the trays (Abstract).

Liu teaches a diagnostic assay tray assembly that is better preserved by implementing integral desiccant housing (Abstract).

Accordingly, neither Lambert nor Liu, alone or in combination, cure deficiencies in Jin Taisei in disclosing or rendering obvious a method of reusing a desiccant that includes recovering a tray that retains a desiccant, as recited in independent claim 3. Accordingly, independent claim 3, and its dependent claims, are patentable over a combination of the applied references. As such, withdrawal of the rejections of the claims under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) is respectfully requested.

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that this application is in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and prompt allowance of claims 3-7 are earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner believe that anything further would be desirable in order to place this application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number set forth below.

Respectfully submitted,



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